



The Lowry Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

# Weekly Parent Communications



Aspiration | Respect | Confidence | Creativity | Resilience



# Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. It has been another busy and positive week in school.

Today we were delighted to welcome the talented, award-winning author Kimberly Whittam, who delivered a series of inspiring poetry workshops to our Year 8 students. The students engaged brilliantly, and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their creativity and confidence in writing.

Our Mid-Year Assessments continue next week. Students have made a great start, and we are pleased with the mature approach they are taking towards them.

Next Wednesday, a group of our Year 9 students will be heading out on an exciting trip to White Scar Caves in Ingleton. We know they will represent the school well and enjoy a memorable day of learning outside the classroom.

As mentioned in last week's message, a number of students have recently been issued U codes for arriving late to school. It is essential that all students arrive on time each morning, ready to learn. I have held individual meetings with several students this week, and if lateness continues, I will be inviting parents into school for further discussion.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child attends school punctually each day.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,  
Claire Coy





# Content List

Date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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## Appeal for Assistance

As we approach the GCSE examination period, we are reaching out to our school community for support.

We are looking for parents or guardians who are fluent in Persian (Farsi and Dari) who would be willing to assist us in conducting some GCSE speaking exams.



No prior experience is necessary, as full training will be provided. The training session will last approximately one hour, and the exams themselves will take less than an hour to complete.

As a token of our appreciation, volunteers will receive a voucher for a local supermarket.

**To ensure fairness in the examination process, we kindly ask that volunteers are not relatives or close friends of any student currently in Year 11 who will be sitting a GCSE in the relevant language this year.**

If you are able to assist us or would like more information, please contact Sarah Gallagher, Head of Languages, at [sarah.gallagher@lowryacademy.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gallagher@lowryacademy.org.uk)

Your support would be greatly valued, and we sincerely appreciate any help you can offer to ensure the success of our students.

# Quality of Education

## Curriculum Spotlight – Computer Science

### Why study Computer Science?

- Computer Science equips students with essential skills for the modern world.
- It develops problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity.
- Transferable skills such as coding and data analysis are useful in science, engineering, business, and everyday life.
- Career opportunities: Technology roles are among the fastest-growing globally, opening doors to fields like cybersecurity, AI, and software development.

### What students are learning this half term

#### Year 7

Data Representation & Programming (Block-Based): Students explore binary and hexadecimal systems and create simple programs using loops and conditions to build logical thinking.

#### Year 8

Programming (Text-Based): Students transition to Edublocks, learning variables, selection, iteration, and debugging techniques to write structured, well-commented code.

#### Year 9

Image Manipulation in the Real World: Students investigate image editing in advertising, social media, and journalism, using Photopea for layers and effects while discussing ethical issues.

#### Year 10

1.2 Character sets, sound, images, compression and 2.3 defensive design and testing

Completing Coding Challenges Online: Students tackle real-world problems on GoCodelt and Python Sponge, reinforcing algorithmic thinking and preparing for GCSE programming tasks.

#### Year 11

Revision: Students consolidate GCSE topics including algorithms and data representation, practicing exam-style questions and using Smart Revise to track progress.

### Why is this important?

KS3 builds the foundation for KS4 and beyond. Early understanding of computing concepts helps students tackle more complex topics later.

These skills are essential for success in GCSE exams and open pathways to careers in technology, engineering, and science.

### How you can Support at Home

- Encourage KS4 students to use Smart Revise and the Teams resources regularly.
- Explore coding platforms like GoCodelt and Python Sponge together.
- Ask your child to explain concepts they've learned – teaching others reinforces understanding.
- Discuss technology news or ethical issues in computing to spark curiosity.
- Encourage problem-solving games and puzzles to build logical thinking.
- Monitor online safety and talk about responsible use of technology.

### Fun Computer Science Challenge

**Year 7 & 8** – Try a GCHQ puzzle together and discuss how logic helps solve problems.

**Year 9** – Find an example of image manipulation in advertising and talk about its impact.

**Year 10** – Complete an online coding challenge and explain the steps they took.

**Year 11** – Share one exam tip they've learned this week and why it's helpful.

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - W.B. Yeats*

# Education With Character

## The Lowry Way

At The Lowry Academy, we believe education goes beyond the classroom. Through enriching experiences, we help students develop the qualities that matter most—confidence, creativity, aspiration, resilience, and respect—our Lowry Values. This week, these values have been at the heart of everything we do.

### House Event: Dingbats & Code Breakers Challenge

This Thursday, our students embraced the latest weekly House Challenge: “**Dingbats & Codebreakers.**” From puzzling riddles to clever visual wordplay, students showed real determination and teamwork as they worked their way through each challenge.

The event was a fantastic showcase of our Lowry Academy values in action:

- **Aspiration** – Students pushed themselves to crack even the toughest clues.
- **Confidence** – Teams backed their instincts and shared ideas boldly.
- **Creativity** – Many puzzles demanded outside-the-box thinking, and our students delivered.
- **Resilience** – Even when the riddles got tricky, teams stuck with it and kept problem-solving.
- **Respect** – Supportive teamwork and positive encouragement were clear throughout the afternoon.

A huge **well done to our winning team**—your focus, imagination, and determination truly shone!

### Author visit: Kimberley Whittam: Inspires Year 8 writers

This week, we were delighted to welcome back Kimberley Whittam, local author of *Quiet Storm* and winner of last year’s Salford Children’s Book Award. This was Kimberley’s second visit to The Lowry Academy, and once again she captivated students with her passion, honesty, and encouragement.

Kimberley spoke to students about her books, the inspirations behind her writing, and the real-life experiences that shaped her characters and stories. Her down-to-earth approach and openness about her own writing journey made her message truly relatable for our young readers and writers.

Year 8 students then took part in creative writing workshops led by Kimberley. They explored character development, emotional voice, and how to turn personal experience into powerful storytelling. The energy in the room was fantastic—students were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions, and producing some heartfelt and imaginative writing of their own.

Kimberley is always a welcome guest at Lowry Academy. As an award-winning local author and a true inspiration to our students, her visits enrich our curriculum and strengthen our commitment to Education with Character. We look forward to seeing her again in the future!

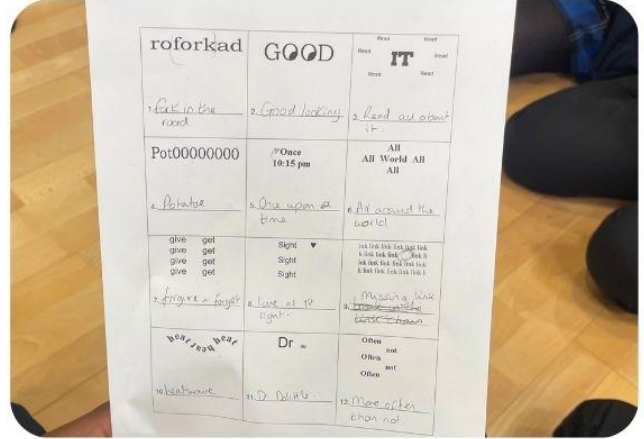
## Coming Up Next Week...

Back by popular demand, the much-loved Lowry Family Fortunes returns next week! Get ready for fast thinking, quickfire answers, and plenty of house spirit.

# Education With Character

## The Lowry Way

### House Event: Dingbats & Code Breakers Challenge



### Author visit: Kimberly Whittam



# Education With Character

## Celebrating Success this week

### House Points Update:

**Pankhurst**  
**182,121**

**Kingsley**  
**182,748**

**Delaney**  
**179,553**

**Turing**  
**178,752**



#### Total Points

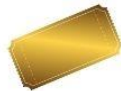
**Year 7**  
187,488

**Year 8**  
166,416

**Year 9**  
111,409

**Year 10**  
132,963

**Year 11**  
124,675



#### Golden Tickets

**Year 7**  
2,770

**Year 8**  
2,101

**Year 9**  
1,773

**Year 10**  
1,079

**Year 11**  
593



#### Values Cards

**Year 7**  
2,047

**Year 8**  
1,937

**Year 9**  
1,890

**Year 10**  
1,408

**Year 11**  
1,197



#### Bronze Awards

**Year 7**  
76

**Year 8**  
60

**Year 9**  
34

**Year 10**  
20

**Year 11**  
9



#### Silver Awards

**Year 7**  
6

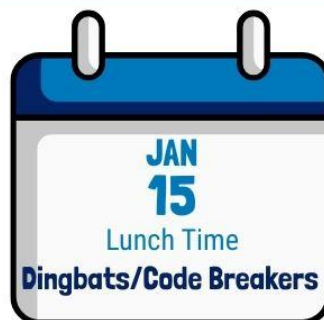
**Year 8**  
0

**Year 9**  
1

**Year 10**  
0

**Year 11**  
0

## House Events – HT3



**10 House Points per event attended for you and your House!**

# Education with Character

Celebrating success this week!

## Silver Award

Congratulations to the students below who have achieved their Silver Award this week!

Student	Year
Faith I	7
Freya S	7
Hameedah H	7

## Bronze Award

Well done to the students below who have attained their Bronze Award this week!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Teniola A	Firas A	Mohammed A	Sylvia C	Anjolaoluwa O
Naeb D	Aimee H	Elle KH	Hezio P	Teigan S
Italia F	Nathan HM	Holly K	Isaac Z	
Uno M	Boluwatife O	Carmen LdR		
Max M	Jameel O	Brooke S		
Ronnie W	Lola R	Lamiek T		

## Nearly There!

The following students are now the closest to achieving their bronze or silver award very soon!  
1,000 points needed for Bronze - 2,500 points needed for Silver!

Student	Year	Points	Student	Year	Points
Ayesha K	8	999	Alif Muhammed S	8	975
Tristan V	7	999	Alisha C	9	974
Sarina S	8	998	Ruby T	11	974
Dotty M	7	997	Ella B	8	973
Yonatan M	10	997	Rocco-Jake K	7	973
Leo B	7	993	Zarmeen A	7	971
Essa M	7	991	Simona B	7	970
Taha AB	10	990	Sienna A	7	2,344
Liddia R	7	987	Isabella L	7	2,233
Zahra S	8	987	Dara W-E	7	2,215
Yazn A	9	985	Hannah I	9	2,164
Emma M	7	983	Jessica I	7	2,136
Tiyanna V	8	983			

## Dates for your Diary

Please make a note of the following dates, further information will be sent to families closer to specific events:

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Relevant to</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Years 7 - 9	Mid Year Assessments
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	All Families	Holocaust Memorial Day
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 (24/25 Cohort)	GCSE Certificate Collection Event 5pm-6pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	All Families	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	All Families	Parent Focus Group Meeting
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10	Parents Evening